

## Law stands behind employers on polygraph requests

This article contains opinions of the author.

By J. FRANK AULT

Graduates preparing to enter the job market may find themselves more often faced with a new ultimatum: take a drug or a polygraph test or risk not being hired.

Some experts say the use of drug and polygraph tests to pre-screen job applicants is increasing. While the decision to submit to such tests rests with each person, a refusal to undergo them could be an obstacle to obtaining some jobs.

While laws limit the use of the polygraph (often called a "lie-detector") for those already employed, they do little to control the use of such tests in the hiring process. Legal expert and UNO professor Frank Forbes said employers can use virtually any test they choose to determine suitability for employment, as long as it doesn't hinge on prohibited criteria, such as race, sex or religion, and as long as the test is equally rather than selectively applied.

"If an employer says to you, 'Come on, I want you to walk around the building with me,' you may say, 'Well, that's a silly test,' but as long as the employer makes all applicants take the same test, that's his right," said Forbes.

With losses from employee theft totaling approximately \$40 billion a year, according to one estimate, employers have concentrated on tightening in-house security. As the law presently stands, they have that right.

Forbes stressed that "applicants have no right to the job" that might protect them from a request to take a drug or polygraph test. Nebraska law says only that results of a polygraph test may not be the sole determinant of dismissal of an employee. No state laws yet deal with drug testing, though Forbes thought that rules similar to those governing polygraphs would be applied in any civil case that might arise. Nebraska law does not specifically address job applicants. As a result, they have less legal protection.

Due to the employers' prerogative to request drug or polygraph testing, many job applicants will find that they must take some kind of test if they wish to be seriously considered for a position.

Despite the ominous visions these tests conjure in some people's minds, professional polygrapher Tom Wheeler supports the use of polygraph testing as a legitimate tool in loss prevention. Wheeler operates Thomas J. Wheeler and Associates, a subcontracting firm for Guardsmen Security.

One of three private examiners in the Omaha metro area, Wheeler has administered polygraph tests for more than 12 years and believes the machine to be highly reliable.

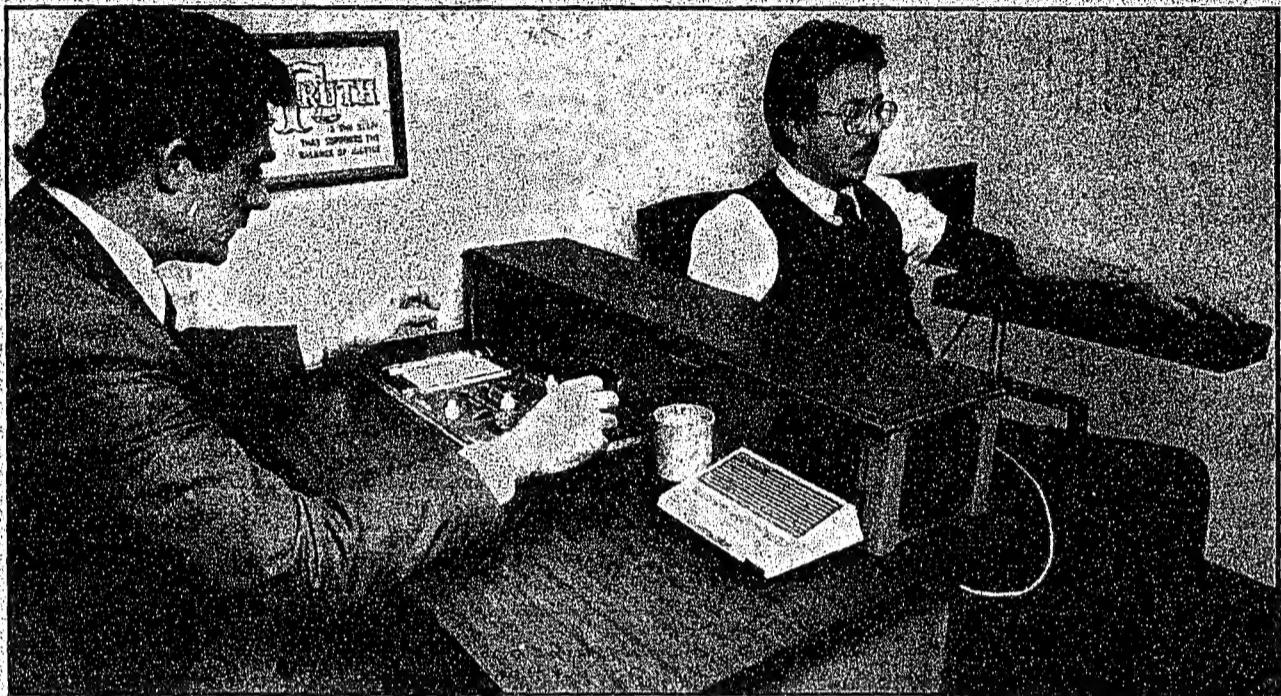
"The machine, if it's in proper working order, is near 100 percent accurate," said Wheeler. "In my opinion, the accuracy lies with the examiner."

Inexperienced or untrained examiners could create terrible problems, according to Wheeler, who tests between 100 and 125 people per month. For that reason, an examiner must complete 265 hours of training at an accredited school and a one-year internship before the Nebraska Secretary of State will issue a license.

Likewise, testing for drugs requires a great deal of training. John Vasilades, a PhD in chemistry, said he worked for universities as a drug screener for years before opening his Omaha business. Vasilades runs the Toxicology and Clinical Chemistry Labs at 1329 N. Saddle Creek Rd.

Much of the laboratory's business is with hospitals and drug-treatment centers. However, Vasilades said, an increasing portion of his business comes from private employers who either have reason to believe that a specific employee is abusing drugs or use drug testing as a measure for pre-screening applicants.

Drug testing at the Saddle Creek laboratory merely involves a urine test for the subject. From that, any presence of illegal



—Roger Tunis

Examiner Tom Wheeler monitors the blood pressure, breathing, and heart rate of "subject" Jerry Sharp, a private investigator who volunteered to simulate a polygraph testing. The polygraph measures physiological changes in the subject as various questions are asked.

drugs can be detected in varying degrees, depending on the kind of drug, its dosage, and its half-life. Vasilades defined half-life as the amount of time it takes for half the substance to dissipate in the body.

THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, has the longest half-life of commonly abused drugs, therefore, it's the one most commonly detected. Cocaine, despite its relatively short half-life, is a distant second.

Both Wheeler and Vasilades stressed that they try to make their findings as objective as possible, telling only that of which they are absolutely certain. Vasilades also offers screenings for the virus that transmits AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), but as yet has received no requests. His service is offered in confidence to individuals as well as employers.

Though less common, fingerprinting can sometimes be required of job applicants. Not surprisingly, many security jobs necessitate the procedure, but other jobs also occasionally ask for it. For instance, the state of Florida requires applicants for teacher certification to furnish their fingerprints at their own expense to the FBI for a background check. Nebraskans need not worry about expense. This state makes employers pay for pre-screening procedures, even medical physicals.

Sam Walker, a UNO criminal justice professor, expressed concern over "the hysteria on the part of employers." While not opposed to all uses of the tests, Walker said he would like to see their use "particularized" rather than freely applied.

The American Civil Liberties Union states its opposition to the use of polygraph testing in its policy handbook, but that policy primarily concerns criminal investigations and use of polygraph results in courts of law. John Taylor of Lincoln, the executive director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union (NCLU), said he favors expansion of the existing Nebraska statute which covers employees so that it would include job applicants; that is, people could not be denied a job solely because of the results of or the refusal to take a polygraph test. Taylor

intends to pursue the topic with the Lincoln Law chapter of the NCLU.

Even more drastic is a bill sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives by Pat Williams of Montana. If passed, the law would eliminate the use of polygraph testing, except for certain jobs that affect health and safety.

Drug testing of job applicants has not yet produced much legislation, so legal experts hesitate to draw many conclusions about the employers' rights to protect their businesses vs. applicants' rights to privacy. The next few years could produce legislation to determine more precisely where job applicants stand. In the meantime, applicants should not be surprised if they are asked to submit to one of these procedures. They are increasingly common.

Vasilades said he believed InterNorth had done some testing in the past, and the railroad industry is now required by law to test its employees. Wheeler said almost any kind of business that deals with a physical product might use polygraph exams. He added that cocaine abuse could be an area of concern because of its expense — for example, sometimes theft is necessary to continue use — but people who take polygraphs should "have faith" that the examiner knows what he's doing and be assured that only job-related questions will be asked.

Taking these tests is voluntary. No one can force an applicant to take these tests. However, employers are within their rights to ask applicants and have little obligation to anyone to explain their final choice, according to Forbes. Practically speaking, unless new laws are passed, taking tests for drug abuse or theft will probably be part of the business landscape in the near future, if the trend continues.

Proponents of these tests predict greater profits due to reduced loss, something beneficial for everyone. Opponents worry about blacklisting and invasion of privacy. Whatever applicants may think, they should realize that asking for employment is no longer a simple matter of mailing a resume and chatting in the personnel office.

## CoMadres representative tells of rights violations

By PATRICK C. STEPHENSON

A U.S. representative of CoMadres (the Mothers of the Disappeared) of El Salvador told UNO students Monday that American tax dollars are being used to support a Salvadoran government that routinely performs such human rights violations as abduction, torture and even murder.

America Sosa, speaking through interpreter Michael Harburg, told of how her 14-year-old son was abducted by police while walking through the streets of San Salvador in 1980. Sosa said her son was detained for nearly three months, during which time he was "tortured both physically and psychologically."

While he was held, Sosa said, her son was beaten and threatened with death and the death of his family. Finally, she said, he was forced to sign a statement admitting political subversiveness.

As a result, Sosa said, he was sent to prison for seven months. After his release, Sosa and

her husband arranged for their son to leave El Salvador and seek political asylum in Mexico.

Three months after her son's release, Sosa said, her husband was also abducted by Salvadoran police. Sosa said she and other members of CoMadres searched hospitals and detention centers for her husband but found nothing.

Eventually, she said, she resorted to searching through "body dumps" in an effort to locate her husband. However, Sosa said, many of the bodies were disfigured or decapitated to prevent identification by family members.

Later, she said, a man came to her house and said that her husband was being held by the police. Sosa said her in-laws went to the police to demand the release of her husband, but the police denied having him in custody.

Eventually, she said, her husband was brought out, weary from having been beaten and subjected to electrical shocks. The police told her that there must have been some sort of mistake.

"This kind of mistake has cost the lives of thousands of people in El Salvador," said Sosa.

Her husband was one such person. He died 15 days later in a Salvadoran hospital.

In 1985, Sosa came to the United States to open an office of CoMadres, becoming an official representative. In El Salvador, she said, 13 members of the organization have been abducted, tortured or killed.

Four months ago, another of her sons was abducted and tortured on his way home from work. Sosa said her son was selected for abduction because of his work with a non-governmental human rights organization. He too, said Sosa, was forced to confess to acts of political subversiveness.

Sosa said CoMadres seeks to bring an end to the fighting in El Salvador and determine the whereabouts of the 6,000 civilians who have disappeared in that country. The mothers, said Sosa, are the direct victims of the fighting in that country because it is their sons and husbands who are killed in the violence.



Sosa

# Mock trial teaches UNO students courtroom skills

Is an "adults only" provision in the deed of a condominium a form of discrimination against children?

That was the issue facing eight students representing UNO at the 1986 Drake Law School Mock Trial Competition in Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 21 and 22. This was the first year UNO participated in the competition, sponsored by Pi Gamma Mu, a national social science honorary.

"The purpose of the mock trial sponsored by Drake Law School was to further an understanding of the law, court procedures and our legal system," said Kent Kirwan, professor of political science and educator-coach for the UNO team.

The eight students — Jim Blitzen, Roxanne Blackman, Rich Davis, Susan Laughlin, John Majorek, John Nimmer, Tom Wilcox and Tammy Wray — were given a mock trial handbook containing the rules, trial procedures and the case the students would be involved in during the mock trial.

"The students were responsible for knowing everything in the handbook, as well as the facts, arguments, procedures, and laws of their case that we discussed in class," said Michael Goodwillie, part-time instructor at UNO and the team's attorney-coach.

Goodwillie's job was to help students with the trial preparation. He also taught the students trial procedure through in-class practices and a dress rehearsal.

The eight students on the team were divided into groups of four — plaintiff and defendant. Each side was responsible for preparing and organizing questions for its witnesses, the opponent's witnesses, and opening and closing statements about the case. In order to effectively represent their side, the students had to thoroughly know the facts and arguments of their case, as well as general court procedures.

"Our group met with the other team, the attorney-coach and Dr. Kirwan for in-class practices, as well as amongst ourselves to organize and plan strategy for our case," said Blitzen, a UNO senior who represented the plaintiff at the trial.

The team worked on the case for four weeks. Before the students went to the competition, a dress rehearsal was held. The students' performances were critiqued by Goodwillie, Kirwan and Craig Ongely, an attorney with Schmid, Ford, Mooney and Frederick, an Omaha law firm. Ongely, a graduate of Drake Law School, participated in the competition as a college student.

The mock trial itself was divided into four rounds, judged by Drake Law School faculty, attorneys, and Drake Law School students. The lawyers arguing the case were actually college students from 36 colleges and universities around the country.

The judges presiding at the trial hearings rendered decisions based on merit and the performance of the case prepared by each team. The merit category determined the actual legal winner of the case, while team performance was judged according to the quality of individual performances by students and on the team presentation as a whole.

"Some of the things we were judged on were our knowledge of the facts of the case, court procedure and general speaking skills before the court," said Blitzen.

The mock trial atmosphere resembled that of a day-to-day courtroom setting. "By participating in the mock trial, we were able to learn the practical methods of presenting a case before a judge, rather than the theory of presenting a case that one would learn in a classroom setting," said Wray, who represented an attorney for the plaintiff.

"I think the students were able to grasp a clear understanding of how the law really works in practice," said Kirwan. "It was difficult to anticipate the vantage-point of the judges and how the witnesses would respond to questioning which made it seem at times as though the process emulating justice to near-capricious."

Blitzen said, "We had to question witnesses and argue our case before the judge in a tense situation, which gave us an enhanced perspective on how the court system operates, plus a knowledge of how a judge or witness may behave during a

real trial."

Some students were required to act as witnesses for their opponents during the competition. "As a witness, it (the mock trial) helped me understand and anticipate how a real witness might behave when questioned at a real trial," said Wray.

During the trial, students dealt with judges who would overrule them, belligerent witnesses, rules of evidence and court procedures, "all of which gave us a handle on what to expect in future trial classes," said Wray, who plans to attend law school.

The UNO team won two rounds out of four and scored above-average on its team presentations. Goodwillie said the students did well on the presentation, "especially when you consider that they had to learn information about court procedures which they were totally unfamiliar with."

Kirwan also gave the students good grades. "I would give their performance at the mock trial a B-plus," he said. "I've never seen a group of students who were more dedicated to giving a good performance, and UNO should be proud to possess students of such caliber."

## News Briefs

Over the weekend, UNO's forensics team took second place in the third Mid-American Forensic League tournament of the year, finishing second to the University of Northern Iowa. Fifteen schools from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota took part in the tournament.

Individual honors to UNO were as follows: persuasion, John Majorek (5th); dramatic interpretation, Jeff Caniglia (4th); prose, Caniglia (2nd), Tracy Wernsman (6th); dramatic duo, Bryan Howell and Caniglia (1st); extempore, Howell (1st); Becky Newkirk (3rd), Majorek (5th); impromptu, Wernsman (2nd).

## This week

### Friday, March 1

- Presentation: Indian Classical Music, Student Center Ballroom, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Slide show: Ambassador Abroad slides of China, Student Center Ballroom, 11 a.m.
- Movie: *Pixote*, Eppley Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Movie: *Children of Paradise*, Eppley Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.
- Workshop: Alcohol Use and Abuse, Student Center Council Room, noon to 1 p.m.

### Saturday, March 8

- Movie: *Crossover Dreams*, New Cinema Cooperative, 35th and Center Streets, 8 p.m. Tickets \$3.50 at the door.
- Public Forum: Nebraska Metro Area Legislative Breakfast, Metro Area Transit Building, 2222 Cuming St., 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday, March 9

- Theater: *Pinocchio*, Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 35th and Center Streets, 2 p.m.
- Recital: Jay Wise on trombone, Strauss Performing Arts Center, 3 p.m.

### Monday, March 10

- Theater: *Soul Cookies and Traveling Ales*, Studio Theater, Arts and Sciences Hall Room 214. Performance time 8 p.m. Tickets \$4 at the door.
- Sale: SPO Art Print Sale, Student Center Ballroom, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through March 14.

### Tuesday, March 11

- Theater: *Soul Cookies and Traveling Ales*, Studio Theater, Arts and Sciences Hall Room 214. Performance time 8 p.m. Tickets \$4 at the door.
- Meeting: "Numero UNO" UNO Toast-

### masters Club, 3rd floor Student Center, 11:30 a.m.

- Workshop: "Self Esteem in the Family," Immanuel's Holling Education Center, 6901 N 72nd St., 7 to 9 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 12

- Exhibit: UNO Art Students' Exhibition, Art Gallery, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through April 4. Opening reception 7:30 p.m.
- Meeting: Faculty Senate, Student Center Dodge Room, 2 p.m.

### Thursday, March 13

- Special Event: Hypnotist Jim Wand and All You Can Eat Pizza, Student Center Ballroom and Nebraska Room, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 12

- Luncheon Lecture: "The Importance of Excavation, Conservation and Preservation of Objects of Antiquity" with Dr. David Gordon Mitten, Joslyn Art Museum. Lecture 11 a.m., lunch 11:45 a.m.

### Thursday, March 13

- Concert: Horacio Gutierrez with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Orpheum Theater, 8 p.m. Tickets \$7.25 to \$17.25, available at Brandeis, TIX and Omaha Symphony Office, 310 Aquila Court, 1615 Howard St., or by calling 342-3560.

### Friday, March 14

- Meeting: Audubon Society of Omaha with guest speaker Steve Kemper, Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, 44th and Frances Streets, 7:30 p.m.

### Single & Pregnant?

It can be a difficult time to make decisions. Child Saving Institute provides free and confidential pregnancy counseling services to help you explore the alternatives in planning for this new life. For more information, call collect.

Child Saving Institute  
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115 South 46th St.  
Omaha, NE



## CINEMA MASHERS

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at The Howard Street Tavern

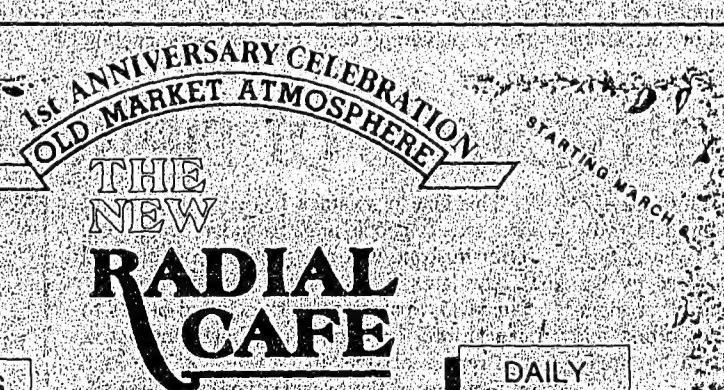
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THE AIR FORCE  
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# Entertainment Guide

The logo for The Chicago Bar is centered in the upper portion of the advertisement. It consists of a large, stylized outline of a hat with a prominent mustache underneath. The word "CHICAGO" is written in bold, block letters across the center of the hat's brim. Above "CHICAGO", the word "THE" is on the left and "BAR" is on the right, both in smaller letters. Below the hat and mustache, the address "33RD & FARNAM" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font, separated by a thin horizontal line.

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(no cover)

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# Comment

## Maybe I could go back to the old brush factory?

I was sitting in the office a little while ago with the copy editor and one of the columnists talking about what we wanted to do when we grew up.

Poor Lynn was frazzled. Twenty-three years old, graduating in May and still no solid career prospects. Goes to school, on the staff of two publications, works at night and still has enough energy to worry about the future. Ah, youth.

And Karen, "pushing 29" in her own words, said she'd been at UNO so long no self-respecting graduate school would touch her with a 10-foot tuition waiver. Knows more about the *Gateway* than any three people alive, proofs copy at the speed of light, has read and retained enough printed matter to cover the continental United States several feet deep, and can't imagine where she might be able to find a job. Give me a break.

But part of my job is to offer my staff the sage advice I've accrued over the years . . . to counsel them in matters of life from the wisedon vantage point of advanced age. It's more than just my duty. It's what I'm paid for.

So to calm their fears and put things in perspective, I leaned back in my chair, stroked my hoary chin, and gave forth.

"You think you've got it bad? What the hell am I gonna do when they kick me outa here? I'm thirty-stinking-two years old

and I've never had a decent job in my life! Who's gonna hire me, huh?"

Whoo, did I detect a note of *angst* in my voice? Has the "mellow fellow" just been suppressing all those fears and doubts he thought he gave the slip to when he sneaked past the Big Three-Zero? Just what have I been doing all these years? Who is going to hire me, anyway? When you get out of college at 32, prospective employers are bound to ask you why it took so long. It was obviously time for me to take stock of my life, which in this case meant my potential resume material.

Let's see, got out of high school . . . barely. Heck, nobody has to know I took algebra and American history twice. OK, then, "High School Graduate."

Worked at the brush factory. "Bristle Engineer?" Naw, better drop that. I only did it for a winter until I had enough money to go hitchhiking.

Picked cranberries in Wisconsin. "Crop Management Specialist?" Naw, I only did that until I got enough money to hitchhike home.

Delivered flowers. Hey, that's not bad! And I did that for two years! Not two years in a row, of course. I had to do some hitchhiking in there, but all told about two years, more or less,

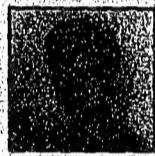
and with the same company. That's as long as I've done anything anywhere almost! "Horticultural Transport Technician." Great!

What else? Almost became a surgical technician. Couldn't take the hours. Acted professionally for three years, off and on. Better not mention that. Joined the army. That looks good on a resume! Except I only served 62 days before I got a medical for flat feet. Not even technically a veteran. Been in a band for five years. Oh, that's great! A musician! That's worse than an actor! What the hell am I good for? The only thing I'm going to have when I graduate is a wimpy diploma, and my mom will be embarrassed because all the other graduates are so young, and they probably won't even say my name!

Then suddenly, as though a well-timed self-defense mechanism entered the circuit, I said to myself, "Hey, if there's one thing I have learned in 32 years it's when I'm going overboard. I didn't blow off responsibility for nearly a third of a century to start getting gray hairs now. Relax. Hang loose. Keep cool. One day at a time. Go with the flow. Maybe *mañana*," and I finished with my favorite and most practical piece of advice, which I shared with my young charges as any good editor would.

"Kids," I said, "this is way too deep. Let's go get a beer."

—DAN PRESCHER



Lynn Sanchez

Last December, *Time* magazine featured a cover story on "Children Having Children." I remember seeing it on the newsstand. It was scarcely six months after my own 17-year-old sister had given her newborn daughter up for adoption. Suddenly, those statistics weren't just meaningless numbers anymore. I read, "Each year, over one million teenagers will become pregnant; four out of five of them, unmarried . . . some 30,000 of them under age 15."

In this month's *Life* magazine, the focus is on teenage America. In a piece titled "It's Saturday Night; Do you know where our teenagers are?", the magazine documents some of the major ways the 25.5 million youngsters between 13 and 19 are spending their time. They include "Driving Around," "Slow Dancing," "Computing," "Working," and one that probably never would have made print even 10 years ago; "Having Babies."

The couple — Karen, a 16-year-old mother and James, a 19-year-old father — are photographed in the hospital with their two-day-old baby, Tanya Renee. The article says Karen and her mother are going to raise the child. In the picture, James holds little Tanya and Karen is eating supper. Their eyes are glued to a television in the room. *Life* writer Claudia Glenn Dowling quotes Karen as saying, "When I get

out, we'll celebrate. We're too young to go to a bar, so I guess we'll hang out in a mall."

When I see things like this, when I remember what my sister and family went through, when I go to Westroads and see young girls with tummies like beachballs, I cannot, simply CAN-NOT fathom why anyone would protest sex education in Omaha's schools. To me, it is ludicrous to rally against something which is so obviously needed. How can people — well-meaning or not — stick their heads in the sand that way?

According to *Time*, for all the early experimentation and media messages encouraging it, far too many teens are ignorant of the scientific facts about reproduction and contraception. Some common myths American adolescents continue to cling to are: you can't get pregnant the first time if you only do it occasionally, or if you do it standing up.

A lot of people may see teaching the facts of life as a parental responsibility, but from the looks of things, it doesn't seem realistic to expect the majority of parents to handle such a job themselves. For one thing, it's a lot to ask of both parents and kids to stay objective during the talk. They're too emotionally involved. For example, how do parents who believe sex should be reserved for marriage react if their

teenager wants to know about how to get birth control? Ideally, you need an unembarrassed, knowledgeable, and non-judgmental arbitrator between kids and their parents. It could stimulate discussion for those who want it, and provide an alternative means of information for those who don't. Sex-ed could provide that.

The argument that classes dealing with sex education would "give kids ideas" or imply free license to have indiscriminate relations strikes me as rather hysterical. I think it would actually combat the fantasies often depicted in teen sex movies and erotic music because it could give some equal time to the repercussions of these acts portrayed. Did it ever occur to these people protesting that presenting straightforward facts about sex is not the same as condoning it? Come on! This is 1986, after all. Whether you like it or not, promiscuity, homosexuality, child molestation, and sexually transmitted diseases are all real-life problems that at some time in their life everyone confronts. Teenage pregnancy is only a part of the picture.

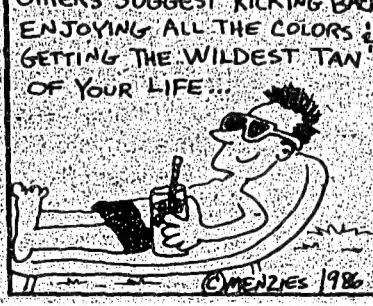
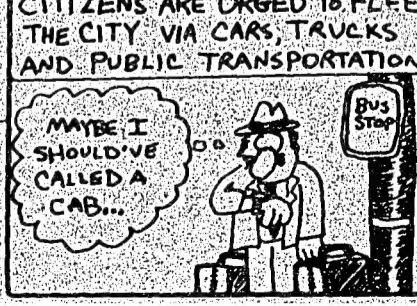
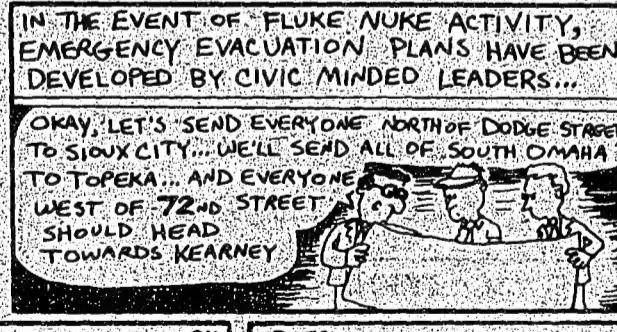
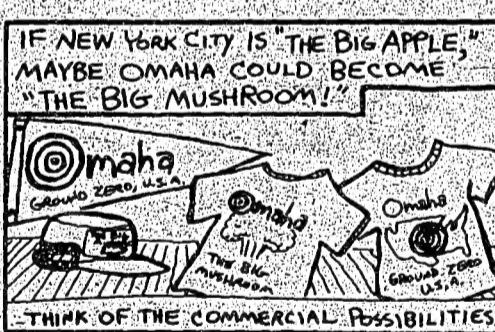
Requiring sex education in high school and even elementary school would definitely be controversial, but it would be the first step in getting both boys and girls aware of all options available to them. And even though not everyone agrees with it, I feel one of those should

be contraceptives. Consider the alternatives. Celibacy? Let's get real, please. How do you tell 11.4 million teenagers who are already sexually active to stop? How do you enforce it? And what about abortion? Why when pregnancy could be avoided in the first place?

There are myriad reasons why adolescents get pregnant, and space is too limited here to go into a lengthy sociological analysis. But there is supporting evidence that sex education and available birth control would help curb this teen birth rate. There are four high schools in St. Paul that have been equipped not only with standard sex-ed classes, but also with full-service health clinics in the buildings. They are equipped to advise teens on contraception and dispense prescriptions for birth control to those who have permission. According to *Time*, "Between 1977 and 1984, births to . . . students fell from 59 per thousand to 26 per thousand. Even girls who did become pregnant seemed to benefit from the counseling. At Mechanic Arts High, their dropout rate fell from 45 percent to 10 percent, and only 1 percent had another unwanted pregnancy within two years of the first."

I sincerely hope that Omaha's schools will not buckle under pressure from the anti-sex education groups. It just wouldn't make sense.

## Don't buckle under on sex education



### The Gateway

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Letters exceeding two (2) typewritten pages will be considered editorial commentary, and are subject to the above criteria.

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## Op Ed

## Govs up in arms over guard overseas role

Washington — In the Pentagon's plans to ship nearly 5,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen over the next few months to train in Honduras, theory and reality collide; the result is a controversy already rearing an ominous head in presidential politics.

Ever since we abandoned the draft, the military has increasingly relied for its numerical combat capacity on weekend warriors, civilians who are paid to pretend they are soldiers one Saturday and Sunday a month.

But suddenly their home towns have noticed that the guardsmen are being sent for the first time in large numbers into a country that is the staging area for the U.S.-backed troops battling the Sandinista government in Nicaragua — practically in the middle of actual fighting. And they don't like it one bit.

"In some minds in the Reagan administration there is a hope for fatalities," stormed Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, a potential Democrat 1988 presidential candidate. "Their deaths could pro-

vide the pretext for a war . . . This is awfully provocative conduct." Nonetheless, Babbitt did not exercise his gubernatorial prerogative to prevent Arizona National Guard troops from flying off to Honduras.

As each state in turn sees its National Guard depart for a two-week stint in Central America, the clamor grows. When Oregon guardsmen left earlier this month, demonstrators gathered at Portland Airport to protest their departure.

Troops from 28 states are scheduled to train in Honduras on a rotating basis through May, when the rainy season begins and most activity becomes difficult. The first of 4,756 soldiers arrived in mid-January. Many of them will spend much of their time building a road to military specifications that is, according to the military, out of the combat zone.

Maine Gov. Joseph Brennan, a Democrat, was more temperate than Babbitt but more decisive. He firmly forbade his National Guard to

leave, saying the location to which they were being sent was "unsafe and poses undue risk." He said he would put them to more productive use at home in Maine, where they will rebuild camp grounds.

As Brennan noted, it is not risk-free. Although even the most hawkish administration officials agree that a direct combat role for Americans there would be a mistake, we cannot always control events in unstable areas.

We are also talking politics here. The National Guard is being used to implement a foreign policy that is not, to put it mildly, universally popular. The troops are pawns in the president's policy of supporting military intervention against the Nicaraguan government.

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, as usual, put it plainly. He said, "I would be opposed because I am opposed to our federal policy on Nicaragua."

Babbitt has gone the furthest in using the

Guard as a symbol to lead the parade against that policy. He wants to block the president's request for \$100 million in military and economic aid this year to the contras fighting the Sandinistas from the Honduras base. He thinks even the \$27 million in economic aid Congress approved last year is too much.

Babbitt's theatrics can be taken for what they are, a relatively unknown politician's bid to stir up enough political trouble to create a national name for himself and a base to run for the presidency. Ronald Reagan should recognize the tactics quickly enough, having used them in the past himself.

But that doesn't mean it's a good idea to send the National Guard in droves to Honduras. In an era of regional conflicts, even limited American involvement should be left to the full-time military professionals.

MARIANNE MEANS

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## Letters

## University racism still exists

## To the Editor:

The mudslinging between Al-Jamal-Rashad Byndon and Charles Dragon, ostensibly, has stopped, but the racism at this university still exists.

Dragon, John Malnack II and Byndon have cluttered past issues of the *Gateway* with their *ad hominem* arguments. Neither side has provided a single statistic to refute or strengthen his argument. Therefore, please allow me to enter this fray.

The number of black faculty members at UNO is embarrassingly low to anyone who opposes institutionalized racism.

UNO has only 11 blacks out of the 407 full-time faculty members. (The black population in Omaha is approximately 10 percent and the faculty at UNO should be a reflection of the diversity in Omaha's population.) The majority of individuals in the \$30,000 and above salary range are white male full-time faculty members. White males have the highest percentage of individuals in this salary range.

Is this a form of racism? Is this a form of sexism? Is this an

example of institutionalized racism? I wonder what Malnack and Dragon think about these figures?

Malnack and Dragon should check the accuracy of my figures before writing their rebuttals in the *Gateway*.

Timothy Ashford

## A little off

## To the Editor:

In response to Neil Bergersen's letter of Feb. 21, I would like to say that Mr. Bergersen's facts are a little off. True, UNO student parking permits do cost \$25 a year and yes, they are proposing to charge an extra \$10 a year for students to park in the garage. Kiewit Foundation did donate the money for the garage, and the cost of the building came in under the donation.

Now a couple of questions: do you know that Med Center students pay \$29 a year for parking permits and UNL students \$40 a year? Do you really believe the university is going to be allowed to pocket the leftover funds from the building of the

garage?

I was a student in '78 and '79, and if I recall, the student fees went up to pay for the upkeep of the HPER building before the building was open. We now pay \$10 per student per semester for upkeep of the building. Believe it or not, upkeep on a 1,500 stall garage is expensive: include resurfacing the pavement every four years, the maintenance on the gates, and cameras, yes, cameras. Did you know there are cameras on the two lower levels of the garage and cameras in all the stairwells? The \$10 a year charge is only on those people that wish to park in the garage.

Lastly, Mr. Bergersen, if you would check the west side of campus, you would find there are open parking spaces any time. And yet more parking will be available by the fall south of the Library. The current problem is not parking space, but how to get to it. When the circulation road is finished the parking problem will be much better.

Linda Pedersen

HONOLULU (UPI) — HONOLULU MAYOR FRANK FASI HAS SUGGESTED THAT OUSTED PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS BUY OR LEASE THE TINY HAWAIIAN ISLAND FAMILIAR TO VIEWERS OF THE TELEVISION SERIES, "GILLIGAN'S ISLAND." "I'M SERIOUS," FASI SAID.



## Review

As I returned to UNO from an afternoon showing of *The Hitcher*, the chill from the Westroads' breezy theater still nipped through my bones, and the soggy buttered popcorn continued to swirl in my stomach.

The ride down Dodge Street seemed endless. My spirits soared, however, when I approached the *Gateway* office and saw a car pulling out of a parking space near the office's side door.

There were other parking spots, to be sure, but not this close, and my queasy stomach felt grateful.

As I patiently watched a car back out of the space, I suddenly noticed a car dart past my windshield and dash into "my" parking spot.

For what it was worth, I protested with a swift honk, slammed my car into reverse and swung around to another spot.

"Oh, you little blankety, blank, blank," I thought, and scenes from *The Hitcher* danced in my head...

Watching 95 minutes of bloodshed and violence made me think, "You're lucky, my friend, that I'm not Rutger Hauer, for in his role as John Ryder, the psychopathic hitchhiker, he would have handled you differently, indeed."

Ryder is simply not the type of fellow one would like to meet on a long, lonely highway or, for that matter, a UNO parking lot. He's

quite handy with switchblades and machine guns, whether he's on foot or on wheels.

Ryder wanders along the highway (*The Hitcher*'s entire setting except for a few roadside stops and a sheriff's office), hitches rides, and terrorizes the good samaritans who give him lifts before he cuts their throats. Among these unfortunate souls who happen to meet Ryder is teenager Jim Halsey (C. Thomas Howell) who catches his first glimpse of the trench-coat clad hitcher on a dark, stormy night as he's driving down the highway.

"My mother told me never to do this," Halsey dimly remarked after he picked up the rain-soaked man. A sinister smile crept across Ryder's face. But before Ryder could chalk up another victim, Halsey managed to push Ryder out of the moving car.

Halsey's fond farewell to the psychopath sets the plot in motion, and Ryder initiates a deadly cat-and-mouse game in which he challenges Halsey to stop him in his sanguine escapades down the southwestern road.

The details of the goriest scenes are left to the viewer's imaginations. Yet, elements of *The Hitcher* parallel other horror flicks. Like *Friday the 13th*'s infamous Jason, for example, Ryder is a murderer, all right, but he is also powerfully mysterious. His omniscient pres-

ence is felt throughout the show, and his blank facial expressions and wild eyes make Hauer a more compelling villain than most.

The movie, however, relies heavily on chance, and thus it allows Ryder the lives of at least a dozen cats and the evasiveness of Casper the Ghost. He's able to slip in and out of murderous scenes always undetected, and in the process, he leaves the blame for the evil deeds on Halsey's shoulders.

The movie's best scenes are eerie encounters between Ryder and Halsey. The view of Halsey finding amusement in two children who stare at him through the back window of their parent's car seems innocent enough, for instance. But as the children pretend to shoot at Halsey with their fingers, Ryder's grinning face appears from behind the head of a stuffed animal.

"Shoot him, shoot him," said Ryder as he affectionately plays with the children. Halsey next sees the car on the shoulder of the road and finds the family dead.

The stage is therefore set for brief, suspenseful meetings between Ryder and Halsey with such non-original props as abandoned gas stations and out-of-order telephones. Through the terror of being stalked by Ryder and shot at by police, Halsey begins to sense Ryder's

presence and learns to predict Ryder's next moves.

Undoubtedly, Hauer certainly plays the madman well, and overall the chemistry between the two main actors lends itself well to professionalism — the actors' good looks is an added bonus for women who find the movie's violence distasteful.

But *The Hitcher* fails in its direction. The complex, subtle relationship between Ryder and Halsey is never explained, and the audience is expected to fill in too many holes.

The highway, in addition, stretches on and on, and it offers nothing except car chases, pile-ups and blood baths. But perhaps that's just the point of a movie dubbed "The Hitcher" — maybe it requires certain elements of predictability wrapped in a mesh of never-ending pavement, desert landscape and psychological twists and turns.

My preference, though, was to see less blood, a tighter plot, more character development and more of the bizarre — by far the movie's best feature. But, who knows? For your part *The Hitcher*'s action and suspense may sustain you — just take my advice and don't eat the popcorn; it doesn't mix well with the movie or your mood.

— STACEY WELLING

## Review

## Klem and Deschler shine in 'Amadeus'

"Salieri... assassin! Did he do it?"

Whether Salieri murdered Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, or not, Creighton University's production of Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* is excellent.

As the play opens, Vienna, "the city of slander," whispers about an old Antonio Salieri's confession that he murdered Mozart.

Salieri longs for Mozart's musical genius. He cannot understand why God would give such talent to a person so abrasively

emphasized by Salieri's building frustration and bitterness with what he believes is God's preference for Mozart. Finally, the question is raised: how can a great genius, such as Mozart, be so poorly rewarded by society?

In the movie version, Salieri confesses his guilt to a young priest. However, in the play, Salieri speaks to the "ghosts of the future," the audience.

Salieri, played by professional actor-director Alan Klem, is superb. Klem, a guest artist at Creighton this season, handles Salieri's intricate personality with finesse.

Throughout the play, Klem's Salieri subtly transforms before the audience's eyes from a charming, humorous court composer into a man driven mad by hate and envy. As he narrates his tale, the play starts in 1823, then jumps back and forth through the years between 1781 to 1791. This can get confusing if you do not pay attention.

The other members of the cast are great. Mozart, played by Daniel Deschler, is just as strong as Klem's Salieri. As in the movie, Mozart's personality is giggly and gross; however, in the play he is even more sexually abrasive.

Salieri, the diabolical fox, and Mozart, the innocent, compliment one another. The audience can feel the tension between the two characters, especially later in the play when Salieri's

scheming is in full swing.

George Drance is wonderful as Joseph II, Emperor of Austria. His monotone delivery of "There it is" after everything he says is most effective.

The set, designed by Thomas Mazur, is nice and simple. Mostly of curtains, the set does not clutter the stage, yet it is

Finally, the question is raised: how can a great genius, such as Mozart, be so poorly rewarded by society?

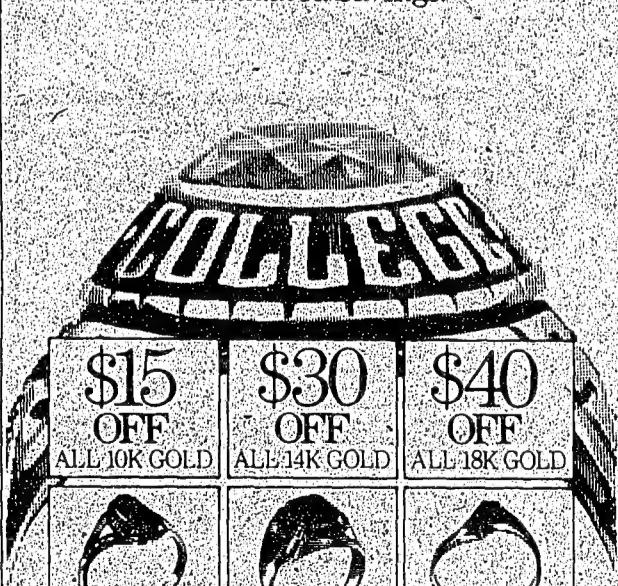
elegant. Elegant is also the word to describe the costumes, designed by Georgiann Regan.

Remaining performances of *Amadeus* are scheduled for tonight and March 8 at 8 p.m., and March 9 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students and senior citizens and \$5 for the public. Group rates are also available. For tickets and more information, contact the Creighton Performing Arts Box Office, 280-2636.

According to Salieri, "Mediocrity is everywhere." There is nothing mediocre about Creighton's *Amadeus*.

— LESLIE HARRIS

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## Dateline London

## It's 4 a.m. Where are your children?

Malta — Yes, there is at least one Nebraskan in Malta, at least, for the seven days of my spring break.

The travel brochure described the resort island as "a small paradise," "an island of culture," "sunny days and balmy evenings," and "the only English word not spoken in Malta is 'rain.'" It sounded perfect for a relaxing holiday to soak up the sun, and, er, Morocco was already completely booked.

Malta is situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, right off of Tunisia and below Sicily. It is a decidedly separate nation and, due to its favorable strategic location, has always attracted the attention of maritime powers.

The brochure was accurate on most accounts except for the part about rain not being spoken. I've heard it talking for the last two nights that we've been here.

The afternoons have cooperated with us tourists. The temperature has been around 60 degrees with the warm Mediterranean sun. The sea is breathtakingly blue and pollution-free.

Sliema, the city I'm staying in, is noted for its long stretch of beach area called the Strand. The sands are stark white and the rock formations that define the shore are fascinating.

Maltese is the native language, but almost everyone speaks English. The Maltese are known for their hospitality and I won't

dispute the fact. The manager at my hotel was a good example of their friendliness. He always saw to it that we got the best breakfast, knew of any special events and that we had ample blankets and other supplies.

I did get a little upset when he started turning into a parental figure and waited up for me until I got back. I'd open the door to find him, arms folded, stern look on his face, as he asked me where I had been until 4 a.m. Not this again. I've still got scars from putting my own parents through a rigorous routine until they finally accepted my independence.

Golly, the bars stay open until well past 4 a.m. I didn't want to seem anti-social.

All the bars are discos. I'm ashamed to admit that I have been going to discoteques in Europe and (gulp) enjoying them. Discos here are taken in a different context. They're gala clubs where everyone dresses splendidly and the dance floor lights up, rises and does other tricks.

One thing my hotel manager warned me about was "the sharks" at these discos, and he was right. As soon as my friends and I walked into the Styx, we attracted stares, got offered drinks and had shallow compliments thrown at us.

I did stumble upon the owner of Styx, who, too, was a smooth-

tongued devil but was nice enough. He lavished us with chilled champagne and caviar the entire evening. He also escorted us to a fortress-turned-restaurant, Il Fortizzo. If you ever get the chance to have octopus-squid-anchovy-mussel pizza, do it! It's scrumptious! We washed down the meal with some excellent Maltese wine.

By that time, my head was spinning, not used to such extravagant beverages. I can hold my own drinking lagers with the blokes in London, but this is another story.

Souvenir shopping was tempting as I paged through leaf after leaf of fine Maltese lace. It was too much to pass up as I hit the leather goods section with its belts, wine casks and wallets.

One thing the travel brochure didn't mention was the Libyan ships that perch not far from Malta's shores. Tripoli, Libya is very close. Natives have told me that in case of trouble with the United States, Colonel Khadafy goes out to sea not far from Malta — and he has already done so once.

I was only joking when I wrote jeeringly that I was going to ski Libya for spring break. Gads, it's in my back yard! There's even an Air Libya airline terminal here. I've got pictures to prove it. No wonder I got such a good travel deal.

—LISA STANKUS

## Weekend Wire . . . Want your big bamboo 'mashed'?

It's been suggested to me that the reason I've mentioned the Linoma Mashers a couple of times already in this column is because *Gateway* editor Dan Prescher is a member of the band.

Repeating that insinuation of shameless toading sometime in a bar might get you a head slap that would shiver Hulk Hogan or a nose twist that would do justice to the Three Stooges.

I proudly stand on my record that I've never written anything just to please someone. In fact, some might say, I've never written anything that pleased anyone, but why screw around with that when the glories of spring are upon us?

And, if spring is here, can summer be far behind? All we need now is for someone to rush breathlessly into the room and shout, "the surf is up at McConaughy!"

The only difference is that surfing at McConaughy exists only in the fertile (in the best barnyard sense) minds of Omaha's Linoma Mashers.

The Mashers, most of whom were in one incarnation or another of the old Hut-Sut Club, play an amalgamation of bouncy dance tunes running the gamut from ska to surf music to Jamaican mento music.

As the name suggests (Linoma Beach is a popular family spot halfway between here and Lincoln), the band would rather dwell on hot fun under the sun than your standard Top-40 playlist so prevalent hereabouts. Two original

songs that would seem to back this up are "Okoboji," an epic about the Midwest-famous Iowa resort, and "Lazy Holiday," which is along the lines of the sultry "Girl From Ipanema" who was world-famous around two decades ago.

Lead guitarist Rex Gray writes most of the Masher originals. Prescher, who plays guitar and saxophone, and the other group members — Steve Monson on drums, Eric Nelson on conga drums, Mark Nelson (no relation to Eric) on keyboards, and Martin Elias on bass — help to fill in their own parts and the lyrics where needed.

Probably not so coincidentally, the Mashers' music also hearkens back to a time 20 years ago or so when college students had not quite discovered the Vietnam War, but instead were most intent on perfecting their "limbo" form. The band has been known to suggest that audience members get up an impromptu limbo contest.

In keeping with the laid-back style of that era, a large part of the Linoma Mashers' material comes from Jamaica. Aside from the ska and calypso numbers usually associated with the island nation, the Mashers play the aforementioned mento music.

The mento sound, according to Prescher, is an older form of Jamaican music developed by immigrant workers in Central and South America. Songs such as "Drop Foot Mento" and another untitled tune the band calls "Mento II" have a more Latino beat than other Jamaican sounds, such as reggae.



Drummer Steve Monson, the Masher's Directional Coordinator, keeps the beat in a mento style at a recent Howard Street appearance.

A couple of other "earthy" songs I, for one, enjoy, are "The 10 Commandments" and "The Big Bamboo."

Feminists should probably take their blood-pressure pills directly before listening to "The 10 Commandments." Written by Prince Buster, the commandments are a series of male-chauvinist-pig rules that forbid things like taking a man's name in vain and coveting "unnecessary" items like fancy dresses.

It's all done tongue in cheek, but that's hard to tell the ladies, especially when the wet napkins and ice start pelting the stage.

As something of an equalizer, the band also

plays "The Big Bamboo," which is pretty much a paean about phallic symbols. Therein the woman of the song does a little demanding of her own, if you get my drift, and you'll have to because by trusty Olivetti is starting to blush.

Tonight and Saturday you can catch them at the Howard Street Tavern. After a trip to Lincoln's Drumstick March 20 and 21, the Mashers return to the Howard Street for a March 23 (Sunday) gig.

Just don't tell me I only cranked out this piece because of Prescher's stewardship of the *Gateway* this semester. I'll have to ruin your face and my evening.

—KEVIN COLE

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# Sports

## UNO honors a man who gave more than money

By KEVIN McANDREWS

There are a few people in this world who care about somebody else besides No. 1.

Marv Treller, a long-time fan of the UNO sports program, will be honored posthumously tonight by being recognized as UNO's corporate citizen of the year. His widow, Sylvia Treller, will accept the award at the UNO Hall of Fame banquet.

Mr. Treller started the Maverick Club, according to Mrs. Treller. She added that he was active in raising funds for athletics, and especially UNO.

"He was successful in getting people interested in the university," said Mrs. Treller, "especially the athletic part of it."

She said he was also active in supporting the Omaha Royals baseball team. He followed many of the athletes as they moved up to the major leagues, including George Brett, a third baseman for the Kansas City Royals.

"He was interested in young people and seeing them better themselves through athletics," said Mrs. Treller. "He knew all the Kansas City players who got started in Omaha. He'd

get a big bang out of seeing them in Kansas City and saying hello."

She said her husband had done a lot for the Omaha Royals.

"He had a box right above the dugout and enjoyed being in touch with the players."

Mr. Treller, who died Feb. 6 at age 81, was a charter member of the Omaha Royals' Lancers. He also helped the B'nai B'rith select outstanding high school athletes from around the Omaha area to be honored at the group's annual charity stag.

Jerry Fricke, a sports writer for *The Omaha World-Herald*, wrote in a Feb. 11, 1986 column:

"Treller presented a hard, no-nonsense stance to the world. But underneath the veneer was a kind, generous person who supported athletics financially and as a fan."

Mr. Treller is survived by his wife, daughter Carol and son Edward. Carol helps out regularly with statistics at UNO basketball games.

### Other honorees

Other to be honored at the banquet will be

Niece Jochims, UNO's all-time scoring leader in women's basketball, and Jack Petersen, All-America football lineman in 1963. Both will be inducted into the UNO Hall of Fame.

Randy Naran and Kathy Knudsen will be named athletes of the year for the 1984-85 season.

Naran led UNO to an 11-2 record, a North Central Conference (NCC) co-championship and a No. 2 national ranking in 1984. Naran set or tied 15 NCC and UNO passing records during his career at UNO from 1980-84.

Kathy Knudsen, a senior who led the UNO volleyball team to a third-place finish in the Division II Final Four this year, had five individual records as a junior in 1984-85.

Mark Jefferson, president of the Maverick club, will be named man of the year, and Jerry Sanders will be named Lady Mav distinguished person of the year. Both were leaders of ticket drives, according to Gary Anderson, UNO sports information director.

Tickets for the banquet are \$20 and can be purchased at the athletic business office, 554-2310.

## Wrestler gets second chance

Paul Jones will lay it all on the line next week.

The senior wrestler for UNO won a wild-card slot to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I tournament to be held in Iowa City, Iowa, March 13-15. Jones, who wrestled in the tournament last year but did not place, would receive Division I All-American honors should he finish in the top eight.

"Paul has a good chance to place," said Mike Denney, coach of the Mavericks. "He's one of the top wrestlers in the nation."

Three UNO wrestlers, Jones, R. J. Nebe and Brad Hildebrandt, earned Division II All-American honors last weekend at the NCAA Division II tournament held in Edwardsville, Ill. UNO finished seventh out of 52 teams.

Jones should get another chance to defeat Marvin Jones next week in the 177-pound division. He lost to Jones in the Division II tournament and had to settle for second place.

"It would be a great way to end his career," said Denney.

UNO finished third on the season in the North Central Conference (NCC). They were in second place the entire tournament until the final heavy-weight match where they lost by 15 points. That was enough to put South Dakota State in the No. 2 position, according to Denney.

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